

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Twenty-Fourth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Twenty-fourth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.5% (623) reside in the Twenty-fourth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (118) of Twenty-fourth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 78.4% of admissions from the Twenty-fourth Middlesex Representative District were male and 21.5% were female.
- Over 71.9% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 93.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 0.5% were black non-Latino, 4.2% were Latino, 0.2% were Asian and 1.6% were other racial categories.
- 62.4% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 18.2% were married, and 14.2% reported not to be married now.
- 21.8% of admissions had less than high school education, 54.9% completed high school, and 23.2% had more than high school education.
- 45.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 8.6% of those admitted were homeless.
- 8.6% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Twenty-fourth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Twenty-fourth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	514	419	166	180	95	117	73
FY '96	824	647	316	299	227	194	118
FY '97	621	487	224	197	119	163	111
FY '98	610	452	224	177	92	160	121
FY '99	607	446	237	205	117	180	139
FY '00	594	434	224	196	105	190	141
FY '01	623	441	231	192	88	212	170

- Since dropping in FY 1997, residents of Twenty-fourth Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but a steady rise in heroin use. Crack use decreased by 26%, while heroin use increased by 32%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 5%, marijuana by 39%, and cocaine use by 6%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Twenty-fourth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	44.1%	34.4%	6.1%	5.8%	0.8%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While marijuana as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, cocaine as a primary drug was higher, and, alcohol, heroin and crack was lower within your District.